

Georgetown

City of Seattle

Public Art & Culture Walking Tour Map

PART
2
OF 2



South Side

Welcome to Georgetown, Seattle's Oldest Neighborhood!

The Duwamish tribe were the first inhabitants of the area, in a community they called Tu-kweltid-tid ("by the river bank"). European settlers started arriving in 1850, and Luther Collins filed the first claim in 1851. In 1871, Annie and Julius Horton platted their land into a town, and named it for their son George, to honor his graduation from medical school.

Repeated flooding of the river had created immensely fertile soil, and immigrant farmers had great success in this valley, selling their crops at Pike Place Market. Hops grew particularly well, and in 1883 the five-acre Seattle Malting and Brewing Company opened, to become the sixth largest brewery in the world.

These were boom years for Georgetown, and in 1904 the town incorporated and elected its first

mayor. The downtown area was abuzz with activity—markets, liverys, pharmacies, hotels, boxing rings, bakeries, saloons, a theater, and a mortuary (whose undertaker sang tenor).

Georgetown's autonomy was short-lived, however, and in 1910 it was annexed to Seattle. Shortly thereafter the Duwamish River was straightened in order to create cheap, accessible factory sites, and the valley became the focus of Seattle's industrial expansion. In the ensuing years the city tried repeatedly to rezone residential and commercial area as industrial land, but met with outraged opposition. The city relented on the rezoning, but dealt equally injurious blows to the neighborhood by cutting through its heart with I-5's entrance and exit ramps, and by allowing the airport to expand its operations.

Today, due to the ongoing efforts of this close-knit community, Georgetown is recognized by city government as a neighborhood anchor. Georgetowners are flourishing in their unique neighborhood, and the area is once again abuzz with activity. Citizens enjoy prize-winning gardens and regularly plant and tend street trees. Artists' studios and workshops hum. Years of meetings and residents' volunteerism will soon find fruition in a restored city hall, a new park (which will feature a refurbished Hat 'n' Boots), and an outdoor market.

So enjoy your visit to this special, hardworking neighborhood.



South Georgetown

14

City Hall

From 1904 to 1910 this building was the Georgetown City Hall, as well Fire and Police Departments. At its dedication ceremony Mayor Mueller, exuberant but lacking in expertise, slid down the new fire pole too quickly and broke both legs.

15

Mayor's house

Built in 1892. John Mueller, one of early Georgetown's most distinguished citizens, filled the offices of mayor, brewery superintendent, and fire chief.

6201 Carleton Avenue S

16

Dora Horton Carle House

Dora Horton, sister to Georgetown's namesake George Horton, built this house in 1893 with her husband, State Senator Will Carle, for whom Carleton Avenue is named. This is a beautifully restored classic Queen Anne home, with its tall, narrow, asymmetrical form accentuated by the projecting porch and an offset, multiple-gable front elevation.

6219 Carleton Avenue S

17

Oxbow Park

This one-acre site originally contained homes, which were razed in the early 1970s when the Washington State DOT purchased the property for a heavy equipment parking lot. Now owned by the city, the property is going to become a 100 percent organic park, featuring public art, play equipment, the Hat 'n' Boots, and a P-Patch. Construction is set to begin in late 2002.

18

"The Castle" (Peter Gessner/Dr. Corson House) 1902

This well preserved example of the Queen Anne style has a colorful history. Its original owner, Peter Gessner, ran the Central Tavern

in Pioneer Square, but moved his operations here after getting sued for letting minors gamble. He committed suicide in the house a year later. The house is purportedly haunted by a fin-de-siecle prostitute named Mary Christian, who claimed through a psychic that she was murdered by a "prestidigitator" (magician). The subsequent owner, Dr. Willis Corson, was superintendent to the hospital and a purer soul, and invited the local baseball team, the Nonpareils, to hold their meetings there.

6420 Carleton Avenue S

19

Hall & Parlor House

Built in 1904. This unique house is of a folk British design that has been popular in the U.S. for more than 300 years. The basic plan is a side-gabled house, two rooms wide and one room deep, with a central door that accesses both rooms. This may be the only one of its kind left in Seattle.

6709 Flora Avenue S

20

Hat 'n' Boots

In 1954, Premium Tex opened the Hat 'n' Boots to travelers commuting along Highway 99 into Seattle. Many locals remember stopping at this famous roadside attraction. The gas station's office was located under the Hat and the Boots housed the bathrooms. To learn more, visit the website at www.hatnboots.org.

21

Street-End Park

Since the river's straightening, this is now as close as the Duwamish comes to Georgetown. Community members currently maintain the park, and there are plans to restore high-tide marsh habitat critical to the salmon and other wildlife that inhabit the river. The pumphouse once delivered water to the condensers of the historic steam plant.

The extraordinary pumps, run by a pair of 2,200 volt, two-phase motors, are some of the last to operate in the U.S.

22

Rine's Crossing

The first bridge to span the Duwamish River was built on this site.

23

B-29 Hangars

The first B-29 bombers used in WWII were built in these wooden Quonset huts.

24

Steam Plant

The Georgetown Steam Plant is an invaluable part of our engineering heritage. It is a National Historic Landmark and a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark. The Georgetown Steam Plant is, surprisingly, still in operation after its career of nearly 75 years. Its completion marks the beginning of the end of the reciprocating steam engine's domination of the growing field of electricity generation. Representing the first two generations of this American innovation, the plant houses the last operable examples of the world's first large-scale vertical steam turbine generators. The plant has an operable collection of period machining tools driven off of the existing line shaft.

13th Avenue S

Open Sat 10:00am to 1:00pm, Sun 11:00am to 1:00pm. Tour at 11:00am daily. Enter at 13th Ave. S and Albro. Info: 206-763-2542 or gpmuseum@juno.com.

25

Ruby Chow Park

This is an earthwork park, designed by artist Michael McCafferty. The park is named for former Council-member Ruby Chow, whose family donated two marble forms carved by Chinese artists.